GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5016
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
CUTTING OF TREES
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of new roads, widening of roads and other developmental activities have necessitated cutting of trees in big cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the matter; and

(c) the manner in which it is proposed to ensure that the ecological balance is maintained?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) to (c) Construction of new roads, widening of roads and other developmental activities in big cities at times do require cutting of trees. If these trees exist on non-forest lands, the permission for felling is governed by the local Tree/Forest Acts.

However, if such trees exist on forest lands, then prior approval of the Central Government under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is required. In such cases, while according approval, the Central Government stipulates planting of at least twice the number of trees to be felled or compensatory afforestation in lieu of the extent of the forest land so diverted.